



Fact Sheet 2013/2014

Upper Clark Fork River Basin Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plans

The December 2012 *Final Upper Clark Fork River Basin Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plans (2012 Restoration Plans)* describe the State of Montana's restoration actions for aquatic and terrestrial resources of the Upper Clark Fork River Basin (UCFRB) that are funded through the Montana Department of Justice Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP). The State obtained these funds through settlement of its natural resource damage lawsuit against ARCO for injuries to natural resources in the UCFRB caused by The Anaconda Company's historic mining and mineral processing activities in the Butte and Anaconda areas. This fact sheet summarizes the three major parts of the *2012 Restoration Plans* – the Aquatic Resources Restoration Plan, the Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plan, and Recreational Services Enhancement Plan.



Figure 1: Harvey Creek eroding bank near corral

Aquatic Resources Restoration Plan: (Section 3 of *2012 Restoration Plans*)

The Aquatic Resources Restoration Plan allocates \$40.1 million for restoring, improving, and preserving aquatic resources of the UCFRB. The primary goal for the Silver Bow Creek and Clark Fork River mainstem fisheries is to restore the trout populations and associated angling opportunities to levels similar to other non-injured areas. Associated goals of the Aquatic Resources Restoration Plan are to:

- Restore the mainstem trout fishery by improving recruitment of fish from tributaries;
- Replace lost trout angling in the mainstem by improving trout populations in tributaries; and
- Maintain or improve native trout populations in the UCFRB to preserve rare and diverse gene pools and improve the diversity and resiliency of the trout fishery.

Flow Restoration Projects: (Section 3.2.1 of *2012 Restoration Plans*)

This section describes the process the State will follow to address the important need to augment instream flows in the dewatered areas in the UCFRB to benefit aquatic resources. To accomplish this:

- \$20.5 million is allocated to supplying instream flow to improve the aquatic health;
- \$500,000 is allocated for monitoring and oversight, including a water commissioner;
- All flow projects require due diligence to determine flow quantity, protectability, and cost;

- Flow projects are grouped based on greatest flow needs in the UCFRB, with projects that will provide water to the dewatered sections of the Clark Fork River between Deer Lodge and Flint Creek to be developed and evaluated first; and
- Review by the UCFRB Advisory Council and Trustee Restoration Council, public comment, and approval by the Governor is required on all flow acquisitions.



Figure 2: Harvey Creek fencing of healthy riparian corridor with cooperation of landowners.

Watershed Restoration Projects: (Section 3.2.2 of 2012 Restoration Plans)

The aquatic priority area specific plans provided in this section describe the actions, other than augmenting flows, that will achieve the goals of the Aquatic Resources Restoration Plan, in concert with other actions funded through other State remediation and restoration plans. Via these area specific plans, \$20.4 million is allocated to restore the fishery of the Silver Bow Creek and Clark Fork River through actions on the two mainstems and in twelve designated priority tributary watersheds to the mainstems.

Actions that will improve riparian habitat, fish passage, instream habitat, as well as those that reduce fish entrainment, will be the focus of restoration work in these watershed areas. The fourteen watershed areas where actions will be conducted and the funds available are listed in Table 1 and shown on Figure 6.

Table 1. Aquatic Watershed Areas and Available Funds			
Silver Bow Creek:	\$250,000	Mill and Willow Creeks*:	\$662,730
Clark Fork River:	\$1,500,000	Dempsey Creek*:	\$716,550
Blacktail Creek:	\$957,245	Racetrack Creek*:	\$770,860
Browns Gulch:	\$773,403	Little Blackfoot River:	\$2,707,029
German Gulch:	\$429,242	Cottonwood Creek:	\$1,686,636
Warm Springs: Creek	\$1,611,366	Harvey Creek:	\$286,902
Lost Creek*:	\$770,860	Flint Creek:	\$2,280,750

*Flow issues need to be addressed prior to implementation of restoration.



Figure 3: Fish screen to decrease loss of fish down irrigation ditches and channels.

In 2013 and 2014 evaluations of each watershed's targeted resources will be completed to prioritize restoration actions in the most cost-effective manner that will be implemented in subsequent years.

Of the \$20.4 million to be spent to improve aquatic resources in these priority watershed areas, \$1.5 million is allocated to monitoring and maintenance of the actions implemented and \$1.7 million is for contingency.

Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plan: (Section 4.0 of 2012 Restoration Plan)

The Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plan allocates \$18 million for restoring, improving, and preserving terrestrial resources of the UCFRB. Restoration actions within nine priority landscape areas involve wildlife habitat protection and enhancement activities. The goals of the restoration actions within these landscape areas are:

- Restore the injured terrestrial resources and associated ecological and recreational services.
- Replace injured terrestrial wildlife resources by protecting and enhancing grasslands, shrub-steppe, riparian, wetland, and conifer forest habitats similar to those injured.
- Replace hunting, wildlife viewing, bird watching, and other wildlife-related outdoor recreational opportunities by enhancing wildlife habitat and, consequently, wildlife populations, and ensuring public access to these wildlife resources.



Figure 4: Spotted Dog WMA, high quality native grasslands

The nine landscape areas and allocated budgets are listed in Table 2 and shown on Figure 6.

Table 2. Terrestrial Landscape Areas and Available Funds			
Philipsburg West: 137,90 acres	\$3.2 million	Lower Flint Creek: 85,660 acres	\$1.4 million
Garnets: 126,735 acres	\$2.2 million	Avon North: 62,384 acres	\$1.4 million
Deer Lodge North: 84,263 acres	\$1.2 million	Deer Lodge South: 59,123 acres	\$1.4 million
East Flints: 71,752 acres	\$1.4 million	Anaconda: 43,592 acres	\$1.0 million
Clark Fork River Mainstem: 22,381 acres	\$2.5 M		

*These budgets may change as terrestrial projects are developed.

The Terrestrial budget allocates \$16 million total for these nine landscape areas, \$2 million for habitat protection and enhancement for existing FWP Wildlife Management Areas, and \$360,000 for monitoring the terrestrial plan. The type of projects that will be developed and implemented in these areas mainly involve protection of priority wildlife habitat through perpetual conservation easements or public acquisitions and enhancement of riparian wetland, and grassland, shrub-grassland and forest habitats for wildlife benefits. Review by the UCFRB Advisory Council and Trustee Restoration Council, public comment, and approval by the Governor is required on all land acquisitions projects.



Figure 5: Stimson Dam near the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers.

Recreational Services Enhancement Plan (Section 5.0 of 2012 Restoration Plan)

The Recreational Services Enhancement Plan allocates \$6.5 million for six recreational projects in the UCFRB, as listed below in Table 3 and shown on Figure 6. These projects will enhance the public's use and enjoyment of

natural resources by improving fishing, floating, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing opportunities for the public in a resource-protective manner.

Table 3. Recreation Projects and Available Funds	
Milltown State Park: \$2.45 million	Fishing Access Sites Construction and Upgrade: \$1.0 million
Deer Lodge Trestle Community Park: \$1.4 million	Drummond Riverside Park: \$100,000
Hafner Dam and Washoe Park: \$1.5 million	Bonner Dam Removal: \$50,000

Funding of recreational projects will come from either the Aquatic or Terrestrial Priority Funds based on the proportion of the project costs attributable to aquatic or terrestrial restoration.

Who is doing the restoration work? (Section 6 of the *2012 Restoration Plans*)

The NRDP is contracting with various entities who submitted project concepts that lead to the inclusion of those projects in the *2012 Restoration Plans*. All assessment, design, and construction work will be procured following State of Montana regulations.

For more information about the NRDP or to obtain a hard copy of the *2012 Restoration Plans* visit the NRDP website at <https://doj.mt.gov/lands/ucfrb-restoration-plans/> or contact the NRDP at 444-0205.

Figure 6.

2012 Restoration Plans: Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources **PRIORITY AREAS**

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